A CONCISE ACCOUNT OF THE Rise, Progress, and Present State OF THE SOCIETY For the Encouragement of ARTS, MANUFACTURES, AND COMMERCE,

Instituted at London, Anno. MDCCLIV.

Compiled from the Original Papers of the first Promoters of the plan; and from other authentic records.

By a MEMBER of the said SOCIETY.

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LONDON:

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MDCCLXIII.

INTRODUCTION.

THE chief deſign of this little piece is, to reſcue from oblivion the laudable zeal of thoſe noble and worthy perſonages, who firſt carried into execution the plan for eſtabliſhing a Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, by recording a ſeries of facts which reflect the higheſt honor on thoſe illuſtrious patrons, whoſe generous benevolence, indefatigable application, and conſtant attendance gave that ſanction to the undertaking, which alone could produce the de-

fired effect of eſtabliſhing it on a firm and durable baſis: and by which it has ſince been enabled to make ſo rapid a progreſs, as in a ſhort time to equal any Society in Europe, both with reſpect to the extenſive utility of its deſigns, and the number of its members.

SEVERAL particulars relative to the origin of this Society having been loſt to the public for many years, it may not be improper to mention, leaſt the authenticity of the following narrative ſhould be diſputed, that the ſubſtance of it was drawn up by the late James Theobald, Eſq; one of the firſt Vice Preſidents of the Society, from a verbal relation given him by Mr. Shipley; and that the ſame gentleman afterwards preſented a copy

copy of that relation to the Antiquarian Society: the original manuſcript, in the hand writing of Mr. Theobald; the editor has peruſed on the preſent occaſion, and finding that it contained ſome anecdotes concerning the private affairs of Mr. Shipley which were foreign to his purpoſe, he has ſuppreſſed them, and has inſerted in the following pages ſome intereſting circumſtances which are not to be found in Mr. Theobald's manuſcript, but have lately been communicated to him by Mr. Shipley, and ſome other gentlemen, and are as well atteſted as any of the facts contained in the manuſcript depoſited in the Antiquarian Society.

It may perhaps be ſuggeſted that this performance is premature, becauſe

cauſe the Society have ordered an hiſtorical regiſter to be compiled by their learned and ingenious Secretary Dr. Templeman, under the direction of a ſelect committee appointed for that purpoſe. In anſwer to this, I have only to obſerve that, the Society having given all due encouragement to a great variety of Arts, and Manufactures, and to ſeveral branches of Commerce, by means of which, new diſcoveries and conſiderable improvements have been made in each claſs; the ample relation of the happy effects of the Society's premiums, together with the neceſſary deſcriptions of the ſeveral Models, Machines, &c. which have been deemed worthy their attention, will form a voluminous, and conſequently an expenſive work, which cannot be purchaſed nor

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read by the public in general; and that the publication of it is an event rather to be wiſhed than ſpeedily expected, if it be conſidered that almoſt the whole of the Secretary's time is employed in diſcharging the common duties of his Office, beſides as there are ſo many ſubjects to be treated of in the propoſed regiſter, little room can be expected for recording the ſimple, but entertaining incidents, which gave birth to the firſt idea of forming ſuch a Society, and which it is neceſſary the public ſhould be acquainted with, eſpecially as it is but too commonly remarked, that when great aſſociations are arrived at the meridian of ſucceſs and perfection, the minuteneſs of their origin is forgot, and men are thereby deterred from

from engaging in ſimilar laudable undertakings.

If therefore to gratify the impatience, and ſatisfy the curioſity of the public who have long been deſirous of peruſing ſome account of the riſe and progreſs of the Society, be a fault, the editor of this performance ſtands condemned, but hopes it will be remembered, that he only conſiders it in the light of an introduction to the Hiſtorical Regiſter of the Society; and that he has been ſtudiouſly attentive to do honor to the firſt founders, and to the preſent members of this laudable aſſociation, and has ſtrictly purſued the dictates of impartiality, candour and truth, throughout the whole narrative.

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As he ſhall be found to have adhered to, or deviated from theſe grand criterions of narrative merit, he deſires to ſtand approved or condemned, and hereon relies for the patronage and protection of the unprejudiced and benevolent.

To ſilence the ſeverer critic, he pleads his privilege as a Member, and preſumes to aſſert, that he has a right, from thoſe principles of freedom and independency which are the grand ſupport of the Society, to offer to the public with all due deference and becoming modeſty, ſuch an account of the reſpectable body to which he belongs, as ſhall incite every great

and good man to aſpire to the honour of adding one to the number of it's worthy Members.

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CONCISE ACCOUNT

OF THE

Riſe, Progreſs, and Preſent State

Of the SOCIETY, for the Encouragement of ARTS, MANUFACTURES and COMMERCE.

MR. WILLIAM SHIPLEY, to whom this laudable Society owe their origin, when he firſt conceived the deſign of propoſing ſuch an inſtitution to the public, reſided at Northampton, where, in the courſe of his acquaintance with ſeveral learned and ingenious gentlemen, he frequently took an opportunity of mentioning

the good effects rewards had been productive of, on many public and private occaſions; and in ſupport of the truth of his remark, ſeveral inſtances were quoted in converſation, both from ancient and modern hiſtory: but what more particularly engaged Mr. Shipley's attention to this ſubject was, a familiar inſtance which then fell within his own obſervation.

At Northampton there are annually two very conſiderable fairs for horſes, at each of which, ſeveral thouſands are expoſed to ſale, and the dealers in horſes reſort to theſe fairs to purchaſe them, not only from different parts of this kingdom but alſo from foreign countries: Mr. Shipley having obſerved for ſome time what large ſums of money were annually returned by this branch of trade, was induced to enquire into the cauſe of the ſucceſs of theſe fairs, and was informed that the premiums of the king's plates, and of the plates given by private ſubſcriptions for races, in the different counties of the kingdom, had

had encouraged a great number of jockies and other dealers to breed race horſes, and for that purpoſe to import Arabian ſtallions, by which means in proceſs of time the breed had been ſo conſiderably improved, that vaſt numbers of valuable horſes not only proper for races, but alſo uſeful in the field of battle, and for many other purpoſes, had been bred in many counties, and had been ſold at much higher prices than were formerly given for the beſt horſes at theſe fairs; and he was alſo informed that the value of the exports of horſes to foreign parts at this time was computed to amount at leaſt to thirty thouſand pounds per annum.

From this remarkable inſtance of the good effects of the premiums given at horſe races, ſo little known or attended to by the generality, who only look upon theſe races as ſeminaries of every ſpecies of vice, Mr. Shipley made this ſenſible reflection: if ſuch is the advantage ariſing to my country from theſe

theſe partial premiums, which in appearance ſeemed only calculated to promote a favourite diverſion, how glorious, how extenſively uſeful it muſt prove, to eſtabliſh public premiums for the general encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce! Thus inſpired by the nobleſt and beſt of paſſions, the love of his country, he ſhortly after drew up propoſals for inſtituting a Society for the purpoſes above mentioned; this done he found himſelf at a loſs to whom to apply for aſſiſtance to enable him to carry his deſign into execution; however, he ventured to ſolicit thoſe gentlemen to whom he had firſt communicated his thoughts on the ſubject; but he met with ſo little encouragement from them, owing to the great difficulties which they apprehended muſt neceſſarily attend the carrying ſo extenſive a ſcheme into execution, that he was totally diſſuaded from attempting it, and for the preſent laid aſide all thoughts of making any further applications on that head, but as he thought

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the propoſals might one day prove of ſome utility, he carefully preſerved them; and happily, ſome time after, a favourable circumſtance once more expanded the wings of expectation, and opened a door to a more ſucceſsful attempt to accompliſh this important deſign.

In the year 1751, having obſerved the oppreſſive methods made uſe of by the engroſſers of wood and coals in the town of Northampton, whoſe uſual cuſtom was, to lay in great ſtores of theſe commodities in ſummer, and to ſell them retail to the poor at very exorbitant prices, during the rigour of the winter, he formed a ſcheme for preventing this cruel practice in future, by propoſing to ſome of the ſubſtantial inhabitants to raiſe a fund by voluntary ſubſcription in order to buy in a ſtock of fuel on the beſt terms, and to retail it to the poor at prime coſt, ſubject only to the incidental charges of warehouſe room and a moderate profit to a man to take care of the ſtock; the

the perſons applied to, not readily agreeing to this propoſal, Mr. Shipley who had this act of charity, greatly at heart, reſolved to employ what money he could ſpare in this benevolent plan; and accordingly laid out twenty guineas in purchaſing wood and coals; which he determined to ſell to the poor at firſt coſt: when thoſe to whom he firſt imparted his reſolution, ſaw that he had actually ſet the example himſelf, and had made a beginning, they then concurred with the plan, and ſubſcribed about one hundred and twenty guineas to be employed in this undertaking, and appointed him their treaſurer, for two years ſucceſſively: by means of this ſubſcription, ſea coal for which the poor were obliged, in the winter, to pay twenty pence per buſhel, was delivered out at thirteen pence; pit coal was reduced from two ſhillings and ſixpence, to one ſhilling and five pence; and wood from fourteen, to nine pence, per hundred weight.

The ſucceſs of this ſcheme greatly encouraged Mr. Shipley once more to turn his thoughts to the revival of his favourite plan for encouraging Arts, &c. juſtly concluding, that if ſo much good had been done by his little ſubſcription for lowering the price of fuel in a ſingle town, great and noble advantages might in all human probability be expected to ariſe from a ſcheme of ſo extenſive a nature as to comprehend the whole kingdom, and judging by the preſent caſe, that if even a ſmall beginning was once made; it might be attended with the ſame ſucceſs. He therefore conſulted the right honourable lord Hallifax, and ſome ingenious and public ſpirited gentlemen in the neighbourhood, who gave him ſeveral uſeful hints on the occaſion, and now it was, that he firſt thought of carrying his plan to London, as the only place where it was likely ſpeedily to take effect, as there alone, he could hope to find a ſufficient number of perſons of high rank and

diſtinction ever ready to patronize and promote any laudable deſign for the welfare and intereſt of Society: the only perſons that he was acquainted with at this time in London, who were capable of forwarding his deſign, were, Mr. Henry Baker, Mr. Meſſiter, and Mr. Criſpe, he had alſo a recommendation to the reverend Dr. Stephen Hales of Teddington, ſince deceaſed. On his arrival he waited on the doctor, and communicated to him the intent of his journey: this public ſpirited and moſt ingenious gentleman readily concurred with him in the undertaking, and informed him, that the lord viſcount Folkſtone, and lord Romney had expreſſed to him an ardent deſire of ſeeing ſome ſuch plan carried into execution, and had promiſed if any ſuch ſhould take place, that they would become ſubſcribers thereto, he alſo promiſed Mr. Shipley, if he would print his propoſals, that he would diſperſe copies of them among many of our public ſpirited nobility and gentry: having ſo far ſucceeded in his firſt appli-

application, he then waited on Mr. Henry Baker, who generouſly aſſiſted him by giving him various recommendations to proper perſons who might forward his deſign: he alſo reviſed his propoſals and plan, which were ſoon after ſent to the preſs.

THE following is printed from one of the copies of that impreſſion.

PROPOSALS

For raiſing by ſubſcription a fund to be diſtributed in PREMIUMS for the promoting of improvements in the LIBERAL ARTS and SCIENCES, MANUFACTURES, &c.

AS riches are acknowledged to be the ſtrength, Arts and Sciences may juſtly be eſteemed the ornaments of nations. Few kingdoms have ever been formidable

midable without the one, or illuſtrious without the other; or very conſiderable without both.---Does it not then behove every nation to cultivate and promote amongſt the members of her own community, what are ſo apparently and eminently conducive to her intereſt and glory? Encouragement is much the ſame to Arts and Sciences as culture is to Vegetables: they always advance and flouriſh in proportion to the rewards they acquire, and the honours they obtain. ---The Auguſtan age amongſt the Romans, and ſome preceeding ages amongſt the Greeks, were remarkable for the delicacy of their taſte and the nobleneſs of their productions; they have recommended and endeared themſelves to all poſterity by many valuable monuments of genius and induſtry. None, I preſume, will imagine, that the men of thoſe times were endued with natural abilities ſuperior to the reſt of mankind in former ages, or in this our preſent time, but their abilities originally equal, roſe to this ſuperiority, by falling into a more

more fertile ſoil, and being exerted under more favourable influences. Had the ſame advantages been enjoyed, even in the moſt ſupine and barbarous periods, there is no doubt but genius would have ſhined, and induſtry toiled, and very probably with equal ſucceſs.

PROFIT and honour are two ſharp ſpurs, which quicken invention, and animate application; it is therefore propoſed, that a ſcheme be ſet on foot for giving both theſe encouragements to the liberal ſciences, to the polite arts, and to every uſeful manufactory. That with this view a fund be raiſed by ſubſcription for the diſtribution of ſome ſuitable premium or honorary gratification for any and every work of diſtinguiſhed ingenuity. That whoever ſhall make the moſt conſiderable progreſs in any branch of beneficial knowledge, or exhibit the moſt compleat performance in any ſpecies of mechanic ſkill, whoever ſhall contrive, improve, execute, or cauſe to be executed

ecuted any ſcheme or project calculated for the honor, the embelliſhment, the intereſt, the comfort, (or in time of danger, for the defence of this nation) may receive a reward ſuitable to the merit of his ſervices. Such an undertaking, it is thought, may eaſily be eſtabliſhed, and as eaſily ſupported, by a body of generous and public ſpirited perſons, and it is hoped may prove an effectual means to embolden enterprize, to enlarge Science, to refine Art, to improve our Manufactures, and extend our Commerce; in a word, to render Great Britain the ſchool of inſtruction, as it is already the centre of traffic to the greateſt part of the known world.

Northampton, June 8, 1753.

A SCHEME

For putting the PROPOSALS in Execution.

WHEN there is a ſufficient number of Subſcribers to put the ſcheme in execution, it is propoſed that they form themſelves into a body, by the name of a Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Sciences, and Manufactures in Great Britain, or by ſuch other title as the ſubſcribers ſhall agree upon.

Ladies as well as gentlemen are invited into this ſubſcription, as there is no reaſon to imagine they will be behindhand in a generous and ſincere regard for the good of their country.

IT is alſo propoſed that the ſubſcribers ſhall chuſe from amongſt themſelves a preſident,

ſident, one or two vice-preſidents, a treaſurer, and a ſecretary.

All the articles relating to the ſcheme may be ſettled by balloting, and each ſubſcriber ſhall be intitled to as many votes as are in proportion to his ſubſcription.

The premiums may be honorary and pecuniary, and adjudged in the following manner. Some time before the day fixed for that purpoſe, the ſpecimens may be ſent by the candidates without any name, to the ſecretary, who may give receipts for them, and mark each particular receipt and ſpecimen with the ſame number.

At the time agreed upon for adjudging the premiums, a committee being choſen, and ſome of the ableſt judges of each particular Art, Science, or Manufacture, called in to their aſſiſtance, the performances of the ſeveral candidates may be examined, and their ſuperior merits determined; then the perſons who produce the receipts, whoſe numbers correſpond with thoſe of the beſt ſpecimens, may afterwards claim

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the prizes. If a profound ſecrecy is previouſly enjoined to the competitors, in all caſes that will admit of it, under the penalty of being for ever excluded the benefit of the premiums, it is thought there can be no room for prejudice or partiality.

In particular caſes, as for very curious and valuable inventions or improvements, &c. gold-medals may be given (which may ſerve both for premiums and alſo for honorary gratifications) of ſuch value, and with ſuch devices as ſhall be thought proper by the ſubſcribers; but for common inventions or improvements, pecuniary premiums are judged ſufficient.

There may be given with the medals, certificates ſigned by the preſident, vice-preſident, treaſurer, and ſome of the principal ſubſcribers, ſignifying what honours the acquirers have been intitled to, and what rewards they have obtained; there-

fore if a medal be got by a perſon, whoſe circumſtances may oblige him to part with it, yet ſtill a certificate will perpetuate the honour he has received.

Certificates may likewiſe be given with the pecuniary premiums, which will be of equal uſe.

If conſiderable premiums were given to the inventors, and ſtill greater to the improvers, if thought worthy, and the greateſt of all to thoſe who ſhall moſt amply execute or cauſe to be executed, the ſaid inventions or improvements, it may be preſumed this would be attended with beneficial conſequences.

Should the ſubſcriptions not be ſufficient at firſt for ſo many premiums as might be wiſh'd; a beginning may be made with giving rewards for the following articles, or ſome others that may be judged of the moſt importance to the nation, viz.

For

For improvements in the preſent plans of education, in naval affairs, in huſbandry, and particularly for the introducing of ſuch Manufactures as may employ great numbers of the poor, which ſeems the only way of leſſening the ſwarms of thieves and beggars throughout the kingdom, and relieving pariſhes from the burden they labour under, in maintaining their numerous poor, as well as rendering multitudes of the unemployed lower claſs of people uſeful to the community and happy in themſelves.

Premiums may alſo be given for the revival and advancement of thoſe Arts and Sciences which are at a low ebb amongſt us; as Poetry, Painting, Tapeſtry, Architecture, &c. As above all other people the Engliſh are endued with talents peculiar for improvements in Arts and Manufactures, ſo by their moſt extenſive commerce, they will of courſe reap greater

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advantages from ſuch improvements, when made, than any other nation whatever.

London, December 7, 1753.

HAVING left ſeveral copies of theſe Propoſals with the reverend doctor Hales and Mr. Baker, Mr. Shipley returned to Northampton, and as he now entertained great hopes of the ſucceſs of his ſcheme, he reſolved to quit that place and reſide in London, that he might have the better opoprtunity of attending to the progreſs of his laudable endeavours for the ſervice of his country.

On his return to London he waited on lord Romney to whom his propoſals had been communicated by doctor Hales, his lordſhip greatly encouraged him to proceed in his undertaking, and to endeavour to make intereſt to eſtabliſh it. Mr. Shipley decently declined it, obſerving that doctor Hales had informed him, that his lordſhip

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in conjunction with lord Folkeſtone, had ſome ſuch ſcheme of their own in view, and that he was afraid the ſetting his on foot might interfere with their lordſhips intentions. Lord Romney on this deſired Mr. Shipley to proceed on his own, and thereupon ſigned a paper, of which the following is an exact copy.

" WE whoſe names are annexed, having peruſed Mr. Shipley's ſcheme for promoting improvements in Arts and Sciences, Manufactures, &c. in this nation, do much approve of the deſign, and think that the putting ſome ſuch plan in execution, will produce effects very beneficial to this nation. We therefore hereby encourage him to apply to the nobility and gentry for the promiſes of their ſubſcription and intereſt, to promote and eſtabliſh ſome ſuch plan, and as ſoon as a number of gentlemen and ladies ſufficient to make a beginning, have ſignified their intention of ſubſcrib-

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" ing to ſuch an undertaking, notice will
" be given of a meeting (the time and
" place being firſt agreed on by a majority
" of the intended ſubſcribers) to conſult on
" proper meaſures for putting in execution
" a plan of this kind, and for laying down
" ſuch rules for the regulation and advance-
" ment of it, as ſhall be judged moſt con-
" ducive to render it uſeful and extenſive to
" this nation, acd ſatisfactory to all the
" ſubſcribers.

ROMNEY.

His lordſhip alſo gave him recommendations to ſeveral of the nobility and gentry, and in particular to lord Folkeſtone who was not then in town, but when he waited on him a few days after, his lordſhip received him very kindly, and ſignified his approbation of his ſcheme, by ſigning the foregoing paper, and by allowing him to make uſe of his name to ſeveral of the nobility; and at the ſame time gave him inſtructions how to proceed.

Thus

Thus encouraged, Mr. Shipley conſidered that unleſs he made the beſt uſe of his time, as the Parliament was to riſe early on account of the enſuing general election, his ſcheme might fail this year, and afterwards be regarded as a ſtale propoſal, and therefore he inceſſantly applied for ſubſcriptions, and after about three months ſollicitations got acceſs to thirty-five of the nobility, and to a great number of other perſons of rank, after which he waited on his two noble patrons to inform them that of thirty five nobles, and a great number of the gentry to whom he had been admitted, only fifteen had promiſed their ſubſcription, and none had ſigned the above-mentioned paper except the biſhop of Worceſter.

Theſe noblemen then enquired of Mr. Shipley, if he had intereſt ſufficient to procure a few gentlemen of his acquaintance to contribute in order to make a beginning. Mr. Shipley replied that he believed he had, if their lordſhips would be ſo good as to

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honor them with a meeting, they thereupon appointed the following Wedneſday being the twenty-ſecond of March 1754, to meet at Rawthmell's coffee houſe in Henrietta ſtreet Covent Garden, at which time and place, Mr. Shipley brought the following gentlemen to conſult with their lordſhips, on the meaſures proper to be taken in order to put the plan in execution, viz. The Rev. Dr. STEPHEN HALES, F R S. JOHN GOODCHILD, Eſq; Mr. HENRY BAKER, F R S. Mr. NICHOLAS CRISPE, Mr. CHARLES LAWRENCE, Mr. GUSTAVUS BRANDER, F R S. Mr. JAMES SHORT, F R S. and Mr. MESSITER.

At this firſt meeting it was propoſed to conſider whether a reward ſhould not be offered for finding Cobalt, and for planting Madder in this kingdom, and as Arſenic, Smalt and Zaffre are prepared from Cobalt, Mr. Shipley was deſired to ſearch the Cuſtom-houſe books, to ſee what quantities of each of thoſe commodities were annually im-

imported, and at the ſame time it being the opinion of all the gentlemen preſent that the art of drawing is abſolutely neceſſary in many Arts, Trades and Manufactures, and that the encouragement of it might prove of great utility to the public, it was reſolved, to give premiums to encourage boys and girls in the art of drawing, and after converſing ſome time on theſe ſubjects, the further conſideration of them was poſtponed till the following Wedneſday, when they agreed to meet there again.

Accordingly March 29, the gentlemen met at the ſame place, when Mr. Shipley brought an account from the Cuſtom houſe books, ſhewing that in the year 1753, 207510 pounds weight of Smalt had been imported, and alſo 16649 hundred, one quarter and fourteen pounds weight of Madder, upon which it was reſolved to give public premiums for finding Cobalt and for planting Madder, and then the gentlemen having reſumed the ſubject of drawings by boys and girls, it was reſolved to offer pre-

miums for them alſo; and agreeable to theſe ſeveral reſolutions the following advertiſement was drawn up and put into the Daily Advertiſer.

TO THE

PUBLIC.

SOME of the nobility, clergy, gentlemen and Merchants, having at heart the good of this country, have lately met together in order to form themſelves into a Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce in Great Britain, by beſtowing rewards from time to time for ſuch productions, inventions and improvements as ſhall tend to the employing of the poor, to the increaſe of trade, and the riches and honor of this kingdom by promoting induſtry and emulation; and though at preſent this plan is not complete, it has nevertheleſs been reſolved to make a beginning in the manner following, viz.

Cobalt

Cobalt having been already diſcovered in ſome parts of this kingdom, for producing ſpecimens not leſs than 20 pounds weight, for the beſt quantity to be produced on or before the 15th of January next, with ſatisfactory certificates of the place where found and reaſonable aſſurances that it may be obtained in quantities, thirty pounds: to be determined that day fortnight. For raiſing and curing the beſt Madder for dying, in this kingdom, not leſs than 20 pounds weight, of which ſamples to be ſhewn with ſatisfactory certificates on or before the 15th of January, 1756, thirty pounds: to be determined that day fortnight.

For the beſt drawing by boys and girls under the age of fourteen years on proof of their abilities, on or before the 15th of January next, fifteen pounds; to be determined that day fortnight.

Likewiſe the beſt drawing by boys and girls between the ages of fourteen and ſeventeen, with the like proof of their abilities,

on or before the ſame day, fifteen pounds: to be determined that day fortnight.

Any information or advice that may forward this deſign for the public good, will be received thankfully, and will be duly conſidered if communicated by letter directed to Mr. Shipley at Mr. Meſſiter's, ſurgeon, in great Pultney ſtreet near Golden ſquare.

As the ſubſcribers to this Society were at this time too few in number to raiſe the ſum propoſed to be given by the above advertiſement, the lords Folkeſtone and Romney generouſly promiſed to make good whatever deficiencies there might happen on that account, and accordingly their lordſhips made good a conſiderable deficiency in the firſt year's ſubſcriptions, which benevolent conduct of their lordſhips gave ſtability to the proceedings of this little Society, and was deſervedly reputed the baſis of its eſtabliſhment.

It was now thought neceſſary to nominate a proper perſon to act as ſecretary and treaſurer, and to take care of the buſineſs of the Society, Mr. Shipley was appointed to this Office for one year, and performed it gratis, to the entire ſatisfaction of all the ſubſcribers.

The gentlemen met again at the ſame place on the 10th of April following, when it was propoſed to divide the premiums for the enſuing year, into three or four different claſſes, and to extend them to the raiſing of raw ſilk in the colonies and at home, and then the meeting was adjourned to the circulating library in Crane court Fleet ſtreet, where leave had been obtained till a more convenient place could be found, and

On the 24th of April, this laudable aſſociation met accordingly for the firſt time at the ſaid circulating library. At this meeting it was ordered that all letters to the Society, received by the Secretary, be numbered in order to have them more eaſily referred

to, and that the Secretary, on receiving any letters that required immediate anſwers, ſhould collect a committee of the Society to conſult with.

Alſo Mr. Shipley having produced two abſtracts from the Amſterdam Gazette commending the intentions of the Society it was thought proper to have them tranſlated and entered in the minutes. After which the gentlemen adjourned to the twenty-ſecond of May, and continued their meetings at this place monthly; during the ſummer months nothing very material was tranſacted; but on the 27th of November the members then preſent obſerving, that their meetings had now been held during the ſpace of eight months, and with a very ſmall increaſe of the number of ſubſcribers, ſome of the gentlemen gave it as their opinion that the forming themſelves into a regular body, and publiſhing their plan, would be the beſt means of inducing others to join them, which being immediately approved of, Mr. Henry Baker was una-

unanimouſly requeſted to draw up a plan for the regulation of the Society, who with great politeneſs and generoſity undertook this difficult taſk; and ſo aſſiduous was he in the execution of it, that on the 18th of December following, he preſented his plan which was ordered to be conſidered the ſecond Wedneſday in February 1755, and thanks were returned him on this occaſion. At this meeting Mr. Theobald propoſed that their next meeting ſhould be at Peele's Coffee houſe in Fleet-ſtreet, which was agreed to, and

On the tenth of January they met agreeable to this reſolution in the dining room at the ſaid coffee houſe when a letter, was read from Charles Whitworth, Eſq; in which were ſome propoſals for rendering the plan of this Society very extenſive; and a ſcheme for a regiſter-book was approved of and a book was accordingly ordered, the form of a certificate to be given with the premiums was likewiſe drawn up by Mr. Henry Baker and approved, and a motion was made by

by Mr. Shipley that a premium be given next year for the beſt performance in ſteel dies, and then they adjourned to the 15th, when with the aſſiſtance of Sir Henry Cheere, Mr. Dalton, Mr. Strange and Mr. Bonneau, who had been deſired to attend for that purpoſe, they for the firſt time adjudged the premiums offered for drawings as follows, viz. To James Scowles for the beſt drawing five pounds; to Miſs Keith for the ſecond beſt four pounds; to Elias Durnford for the third, three pounds: to Richard Dubourg for the fourth, two pounds; and to John Revel for the fifth, one pound, being the Premium advertiſed for the claſs between the ages of fourteen and ſeventeen.

To Richard Coſway for the beſt drawing, five pounds: to John Smart for the ſecond beſt, four pounds; to John Greſſe for the third, three pounds; to Miſs Barbara Marſden for the fourth, two pounds; and to John Aſhwood Porter for the fifth, one

one pound ; being the premium offered for the claſs under the age of fourteen.

Public notice of this deciſion was ordered to be inſerted in the Daily Advertiſer of the 17th current, and on the 29th following, the money was diſtributed among the ſeveral claimants abovementioned, before the ſubſcribers then preſent. At the next meeting on the fifth of February, the Society having formed themſelves into a body by the title of the Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, proceeded by ballot to the election of their ſeveral officers for the enſuing year, when the following noblemen and gentlemen were choſen, viz.

PRESIDENT.

The Right Honourable Jacob Lord Viſcount Folkeſtone.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

The Right Honourable lord Romney.
The Reverend Dr. Stephen Hales.
Charles Whitworth, Eſq. and
James Theobald, Eſq.

John Goodchild, Eſq; treaſurer, and Mr. William Shipley ſecretary, who was likewiſe elected a perpetual member, and excuſed all payments in conſideration of his having framed the original propoſals and plan for forming this Society, and of the great trouble and fatigue he had undergone in ſolliciting the encouragement of the nobility and gentry for many months: the ſame honor was likewiſe conferred on Mr. Henry Baker, for drawing up a practical plan for carrying Mr. Shipley's deſign into execution.

On the 19th of February, the Society met for the laſt time at Peele's coffee houſe, for finding that the room was too ſmall to contain their preſent members, they had deſired Mr. Shipley to enquire for a more commodious room, who in conſequence of their requeſt now informed them, that he had ſeen a houſe in Craig's court at Charing croſs, in which by laying two rooms on the firſt floor into one, he could form a very convenient apartment for the meetings of the

the Society, which he would furniſh with chairs and other neceſſaries for the meetings at the yearly expence of twenty pounds including fire and candles; this offer appeared ſo reaſonable, that the Society readily accepted it, and appointed their next meeting to be held there accordingly.

It was likewiſe reſolved at this meeting that one thouſand copies of Mr. Baker's plan ſhould be forthwith printed and diſperſed.

The good effects of the Society's being formed into a regular body, and of the publication of Mr. Baker's plan, ſoon became viſible by the rapid increaſe of the number of its members which almoſt inſtantly enſued, for from the time of their firſt meeting at Rathmell's coffee houſe, in March 1754, to the firſt time of electing their officers in February 1755, being the ſpace of eleven months, they were only increaſed to ſeventeen members, whereas in the ſhort ſpace of two months, after the publication of the plan, the Society increaſed to

eighty-one members; and another favourable circumſtance alſo greatly contributed to their ſucceſs, which was the conſtant and unwearied attendance of thoſe worthy noblemen already mentioned, who at this time never once failed to honor the Society by their preſence at their weekly meetings.

On the firſt of March, the Society met at their office in Craig's court, and from this time all their proceedings were regularly entered in books appointed for that purpoſe, and their meetings began to be held weekly.

Soon after the Society's premiums were extended to different articles in Manufactures and Commerce at home, and in our colonies abroad; and they have ſince been ſo conſiderably enlarged that the annual catalogue of their premiums and the conditions on which they are offered, makes a conſiderable pamphlet.

At a meeting on the 30th of April, Mr. Beardmore one of the members, produced to the Society the new general magazine for

for the month of April, in which was inſerted an abſtract of the Society's plan, and thereupon he was deſired to thank the proprietors of this magazine,----probably becauſe the Society chearfully embraced, and were willing to countenance every opportunity of making their benevolent intentions univerſally known, and becauſe though permiſſion had not been obtained for this publication, yet the proprietors had in ſome meaſure forwarded their deſigns, which was agreeable to the requeſt of their advertiſement, and as this advertiſement is ſtill continued to 1763, it is a preſumptive proof that this candid account of their inſtitution will be regarded in the ſame light.

During this ſummer the Society continued much in the ſame ſtate, the grand objects that principally engaged their attention were, the eſſaying ſeveral minerals in order to find the true Cobalt for which their premium was offered; and the eſtabliſhing premiums to encourage the making of buff leather for the uſe of the army, and

for

for cultivating the growth of white mulberry trees in Carolina; for an account of the good effects of theſe and other premiums that may be hereafter mentioned, we refer the reader to a diſtinct detail of the public benefits ariſing from the Society's premiums, claſſed under proper heads and annexed to this narrative.

By the tenth of December, the Society conſiſting of one hundred and fifty members, it was obſerved that Mr. Shipley's whole time was engroſſed in performing the buſineſs of Secretary, Regiſter and Collector, which he had hitherto performed for the Society gratis, therefore a motion was made to allow him a ſalary, and the queſtion being put it paſſed unanimouſly in the affirmative.

At length the apartments in Craig's court proved too ſmall to contain their members, great numbers being now elected at every weekly meeting, wherefore on the 25th of February, 1756, the Society hired the firſt floor in the houſe ſituate at the corner

of

of Caſtle Court oppoſite the New Exchange buildings in the Strand, which firſt floor was properly fitted up for their meetings; and here the Society met for the firſt time on the ſecond of June 1756, and ordered eſſaying furnaces to be erected for trying ſuch ores and minerals as ſhould be brought to the Society for examination, but principally on account of finding the true Cobalt.

From this time the buſineſs of the Society multiplied ſo conſiderably, that to give a regular detail of the proceedings at each meeting, would require a large volume; I ſhall therefore only ſelect ſuch important tranſactions as have been peculiarly beneficial to the public, and ſhall then cloſe this little narrative with a ſhort account of the preſent ſtate of the Society, remarking the number of its members, the extent and utility of its premiums, under their ſeveral claſſes, and the equity and moderation of the rules and orders by which this great body is happily conducted in ſuch a manner

manner as to give univerſal ſatisfaction, and to merit diſtinguiſhed approbation.

In the year 1756, Mr. Henry Baker, whoſe active zeal for the welfare of this Society we have often had occaſion to mention, propoſed to the Society, to give gold and ſilver medals as honorary premiums, with a view of exciting emulation among the nobility, and other perſons of condition, with whom pecuniary premiums could have no weight, agreeable to this propoſal, a deſign for the medals was preſented to the Society by Mr. James Stuart, from which a die was ordered to be made, and ſome medals being ſtruck, the firſt ſix gold medals were given by the Society, to the perſons, and in the order following.

To JACOB LORD VISCOUNT FOLKESTONE with this inſcription within the laurel wreath, FOR EMINENT SERVICES.

To LORD ROMNEY, with the ſame inſcription; the eminent ſervices, ſo properly recorded in theſe inſcriptions, require

quire no repetition, as the reader is by this time fully acquainted with the amiable characters of these two noblemen.

To Henry Duke of Beaufort with this inscription, For Sowing Acorns.

To Lady Louisa Augusta Greville, ---for Drawing.

To James Stuart Painter and Architect ---- for designing this Medal.

To William Shipley---Whose Public Spirit gave rise to this Society. An engraving from this gentleman's medal has been made, and an impression placed in the title page of this work, as its proper frontispiece, and also that the public might have an exact copy of the Society's honorary medals.

February the 27th 1760, a letter was read to the Socity, from Mr. Francis Hayman History Painter, at that time chairman of the committee of Artists, requesting that the Society would permit the Ar-

tiſts to make an exhibition of polite Arts in the Society's great room, which had been built for them at a houſe nearly oppoſite Beauford buildings, where they ſtill continue, this letter being referred to the committee of polite Arts, they came to a reſolution to permit an exhibition, and accordingly in May following the Artiſts of Great Britain, exhibited their works for the firſt time, under the ſanction of the Society, and from the amazing concourſe of people who daily reſorted to this exhibition, it plainly appeared how agreeable it would be to the public in general, if ſuch exhibitions were annually permitted, and experience has ſhewn that the public curioſity has not ſuffered the leaſt diminution, during the ſpace of four years for the preſent exhibition is as popular as the firſt; and very important are the advantages ariſing to the Society, to the artiſts, and to the whole nation, from theſe annual exhibitions.

With reſpect to the Society I believe it cannot be denied, that many private perſons capable

capable of promoting their plan, not only by their ſubſcriptions, but by their advice and experience, have become members, from viewing the various works of art exhibited under the patronage of ſo laudable an aſſociation, many of which they found were the happy product of the Society's extenſive liberality, to which I may add, that numbers who were not well apprized of the ſucceſsful progreſs of their patriotic endeavours, by this means received undoubted information, and from thence were induced to contribute to the ſupport and extenſion of this noble ſtructure of public virtue---As to the riſing generation of Artiſts they no longer remain immerſed in obſcurity, but have the happieſt opportunity of exhibiting their favourite talents to the beſt advantage, and are early introduced to the acquaintance of the patrons of the polite arts, to whom their names and reſidence is by this means made known; and their reputation is not founded on the partial voice of private friendſhip, but on the merit

of

of public approbation; and from the profit arising from the sale of the annual catalogues of their works thus exhibited, the exhibiters been enabled to distribute relief not only to the indigent of their own body, but also to aliens, and are at present formed into a regular institution by the name of A SOCIETY OF ARTISTS ASSOCIATED FOR THE RELIEF OF THE DISTRESSED AND DECAYED OF THEIR OWN BODY, THEIR WIDOWS AND CHILDREN, thankfully acknowledging the spirit of encouragement which the public have expressed during their late exhibitions, and providently determining for the future, to form a fund from the produce of the sale of their catalogues for those humane purposes ALONE, so clearly set forth in their title. Lastly, the nation in general derives a relative advantage from these exhibitions, for by them, a branch of education of the utmost importance to many of our Manufactures is greatly encouraged, emulation being a strong incitement to our youth to learn the elegant art of drawing,

and

and drawing is ſo eſſential to the improvement of many Arts and Manufactures, and before the inſtitution of this Society, and of theſe exhibitions was ſo little cultivated, and confined to ſo few hands, that the Manufacturers were obliged to give ſuch extravagant prices for new patterns, as greatly enhanced the value of their commodities, and diminiſhed the demand for them in foreign markets, if not at home.

I am now to paſs from this pleaſing tho' ſhort review of our exhibitions, to an event of the utmoſt conſequence to the community---the eſtabliſhment of the plan for ſupplying the markets of London and Weſtminſter, with fiſh from diſtant ſea-ports and rivers, by land carriage.

This extenſive undertaking was firſt propoſed to the Society in the month of November 1761, by John Blake, Eſq; who attended the committee to whom it had been referred to conſider of a premium for the catching of turbots by Britiſh ſubjects. Mr. Blake informed the gentlemen of the com-

committee, that machines might be contrived capable of carrying one thouſand weight of fiſh, and at the ſame time ſo light, that they might eaſily be drawn by a pair of horſes; and convey the above weight of fiſh without any injury, from the weather or jolting, to London, from the ſea-coaſts of the kingdom; he likewiſe ſet forth the advantages that would accrue to the nation from the improvement of our fiſheries, and particularly that of adding conſiderably to our marine, by encouraging fiſhermen to ſettle on our ſea-coaſts, which by this means would become nurſeries for good ſea-men; for the children being early accuſtomed to the watry element, would be the more eaſily induced when grown up to enter into the ſervice of the ſtate. In a word, his whole plan ſeemed ſo evidently calculated for the public good, that at the next meeting of the Society, it was reſolved to advance Mr. Blake the ſum of two thouſand pounds to enable him to carry his uſeful deſigns into execution, and the ſaid ſum

was

was paid to him, without any limitations or particular conditions, and premiums were offered for the beſt models of machines proper for the undertaking, but it was not till the month of May 1762, that the ſcheme took effect, when proper carriages being made from the model to which the premium had been adjudged, and all other neceſſaries being duly prepared, theſe carriages began to travel, and it muſt not be forgot that through the indefatigable attention of the manager to every thing that might tend to promote the ſucceſs of this undertaking, an act of parliament was obtained, by which the tolls to be paid by theſe carriages, were moderated, the fiſhermen protected; and the liberty of buying and ſelling of fiſh laid open to every perſon, whether brought up to the trade or not: in a very ſhort time, the public with pleaſure beheld a greater variety of fiſh than had ever been known at London, and ſeveral ſorts of fiſh particularly ſoles, were brought

to

to market much larger than uſual, and in better condition.

The neceſſary expences attending the carrying this beneficial deſign into execution were ſo conſiderable, ſuch as providing a proper number of machines, a place of general reception, ſtalls for ſale, &c. that Mr. Blake ſoon found the ſum granted by the Society was inadequate to the extenſiveneſs of the plan, but determined to give all poſſible ſatisfaction to this reſpectable body, he laid before them an account of his expences, and of the progreſs he had made, which the Society ſo highly approved, that they not only returned him thanks for his great care and attention to the truſt repoſed in him, but likewiſe on the nineteenth of May, 1762, agreed, to lend him the ſum of one thouſand five hundred pounds on his giving proper ſecurity, the better to enable him to complete his deſign, which he has ſince carried on with great ſucceſs and amazing intrepidity, ſurmounting every difficulty that the united efforts of a ſet of monop-

monoplizers of fiſh in this town, could poſſibly invent to obſtruct him in the execution of this great undertaking; and in March laſt, he once more laid his accounts, unaſked, before the Society, at an extraordinary meeting, when his whole proceedings appeared ſo conſiſtent with his firſt propoſals, and his diſintereſted zeal and unwearied application in this public ſervice ſo undeniably evident, that thanks were again returned him, and the gold medal of the Society unanimouſly voted him, which being confirmed at the next meeting, it was referred to the committee of polite Arts to conſider of a proper inſcription, when the following was agreed to, To JOHN BLAKE, ESQ. and within the laurel wreath, FISH MONOPOLY RESTRAINED. Thus by the benevolent ſupport of this Society, and the public ſpirit and induſtry of one of its members, the ſupplying our markets with fiſh by land carriage, and the reducing its price, have been happily accompliſhed; and exclufive of this ſcheme, the Society annually

ſet apart five hundred pounds to be diſtributed in premiums for the encouragement of the turbot fiſhery by Britiſh ſubjects, ſo that from theſe two fertile ſources, we may hope to derive two capital national advantages, the employing of a great number of ſeamen in time of peace, and the forming a conſiderable nurſery of theſe uſeful ſubjects, who may be called forth, by proper encouragement, to the ſervice of their country, in time of public danger.

Having now given an account of the moſt important propoſals that the Society have carried into execution ſince the year 1756, independent of their printed liſt of premiums, I ſhall briefly ſtate the ſignal advantages the public have derived from the premiums and bounties given by this Society in purſuance of their plan, as far as they have come to my knowledge, diſtinguiſhing the improvements actually made in each claſs: propoſed to be encourged, and firſt

IN THE ANCIENT AND USEFUL ARTS OF AGRICULTURE AND HUSBANDRY.

THE Society have conſtantly offered honorary premiums of gold and ſilver medals, for planting of Acorns, Cheſnuts, Elms, Firs, and Weymouth Pines, in different quantities, and for fencing and preſerving the ſame effectually, in order to raiſe timber, ſo eſſential for the ſervice of the navy, and wood for domeſtic uſes in building, &c.

The great utility of the cultivation of theſe trees is ſo obvious, and indeed has been ſo well conceived by our nobility and gentry, that it will be ſufficient to remark that the premiums have been claimed from time to time, by perſons of the higheſt diſtinction, the firſt of which has been already noticed.

The cultivation of madder which is a root of great uſe in dying, has been encouraged

by the Society's premiums from the firſt year of their inſtitution; it was formerly planted in England in great quantities, but of late years had been wholly diſcontinued, the Dutch having conſtantly ſupplied us with this valuable article, and it is computed that the imports of Madder from Holland have amounted for ſome time paſt to 200,000 pounds *per annum*; but under the ſanction of the Society the growth of this plant is revived, and very large quantities are now cultivated by ſundry perſons in different parts of this kingdom, one perſon in particular has planted 29 acres, and the premiums offered by the Society are regularly claimed, ſo that in a very ſhort time we ſhall have no occaſion to ſend to Holland for a vegetable, which will thrive as well in our own country.

The other articles in huſbandry which have been encouraged by the Society are, the raiſing apiaries for which both honorary and pecuniary premiums are offered, the quantity required for the firſt premium being

being eighty pounds, is no leſs than four hundred ſtocks in hives or boxes, and before the Society threw out theſe premiums no perſon ever thought of poſſeſſing ſuch a ſtock of bees---Several ſorts of fodder, particularly Lucerne, have been cultivated with great ſucceſs, and laſtly, Hemp, the growth and preparation of which in this kingdom for the making of ſail-cloth and cordage, is of very conſiderable importance, has been greatly encouraged, and the premiums claimed in ſeveral counties.

POLITE ARTS.

THE Society ſet out with giving premiums for drawings by boys and girls; theſe have ſince been extended to various ages, and to different kinds of drawing too numerous to ſpecify in this place, and honorary premiums of gold and ſilver medals have been eſtabliſhed, and claimed, for drawings by young ladies, the daughters of peers and peereſſes.

Through

Through the encouragement given by the Society to this Art, drawing is become a branch of education; and as a great many of our Manufactures which depends on correctneſs and elegance of deſign, are annually exported to foreign countries, the improvement of theſe, which will be the reſult of encouraging our youth to learn this Art, muſt in time prove a national advantage.

In the year 1757, premiums were offered for modelling, which are ſtill continued, and this Art has been greatly improved amongſt us: ſeveral excellent ſpecimens in clay, and in wax, having been preſented to the Society, in conſequence of their premiums, the great benefits ariſing from the improvement of this Art, to the ſtatuaries, ſculptors, &c. is too well known to require a detail.

Etching and engraving, and caſting in bronze, all of which have their various well known uſes, have been conſiderably improved under the ſanction of this Society, and premiums for theſe articles are ſtill offered.

In

In 1758, premiums were publiſhed for the encouragement of the medalic art, and the ſubjects propoſed and executed have been, ſome of the moſt glorious events of the late war: as theſe medals are ſtruck from ſteel dies, an extenſive benefit is derived from improvements in this branch, which is not known in general; a variety of articles in hard ware, as Etwees, Seals, &c. of which vaſt quantities are exported are likewiſe ſtruck from ſteel dies, and therefore all improvements of them muſt prove beneficial to theſe Manufactures by increaſing the variety of deſigns or patterns.

Hiſtory and landſcape painting have likewiſe been encouraged and alſo ſtatues and baſſo relievo's in marble, by which many young artiſts and ſome maſters have been induced to produce ſuch performances in each branch, as have done honor to the Society under whoſe ſanction they have been produced.

Engraving on gems has been encouraged with ſucceſs; and ſeveral other articles of in-

inferior note, but which are all uſeful in their kind.

CHEMISTRY, MINERALOGY AND DYING.

PREMIUMS have been offered for ſundry preparations and improvements in theſe very uſeful arts; and are ſtill continued, thoſe which have been particularly improved or eſtabliſhed, and for which premiums have been paid are, Verdigris uſed by the Dyers, the making of which from Britiſh materials has been ſo far eſtabliſhed to the ſatisfaction of the Society, that the premium is diſcontinued. White enamel in imitation of the Venetian, has been produced, and a manufactory eſtabliſhed in England, in conſequence of the premiums thrown out for this article.

Premiums have likewiſe been claimed for improvements in dying cloth and ſilk in grain, and for dying cotton ſcarlet, or crimſon in grain, and to anſwer the purpoſes

poſes of the Turkey or India red. Specimens of improvements of Varniſh to anſwer the ends of Martin's at Paris, have been brought in for the premium offered for this article, and are now under examination; and alſo a compoſition to prevent ſteel from taking ruſt; the making Salt Petre of Pig and bar Iron, Sal Ammoniac, a ſubſtitute for Borax, &c. are ſubjects for which premiums are offered under this head, and it is not to be doubted but that conſiderable improvements will be made in every branch of theſe commerical arts.

MECHANICS.

THE firſt articles in this claſs which the Society encouraged by premiums were improvements in wind and water Mills, models of which have been produced to the Society, and are kept in their repoſitory.

Premiums were likewiſe offered for improvements in ſpinning wheels, and this

year a complete ſpinning wheel has been produced with which one perſon may ſpin ſix threads at a time, and it will prove very ſerviceable to ſeveral of our Manufactures by ſaving a number of hands; but an article of much greater conſequence lately brought to perfection is, the erecting of a ſaw Mill for ſawing of planks, the model of which has lately been purchaſed by the Society for one hundred pounds, and is now lodged in their repoſitory, this machine is worked by water and carries ſixteen ſaws, from this model various Mills may be conſtructed for the ſame purpoſe.

Bounties have alſo been granted for ſeveral uſeful inventions and improvements in Mechanics, which have from time to time been laid before the Society, particularly improvements in reels for winding ſilk, a new invention of a machine for planing caſt Iron, eſteemed very curious and uſeful; and ſeveral other things of leſs conſequence: to this curſory review of the Society's ſucceſs

ceſs in the purſuit of the firſt part of their plan, the encouragement of Arts, I have only to add, that they have a repoſitory conſiſting of a variety of models, machines, &c. ſome of which have been preſented to the Society, others have been depoſited in conſequence of their premiums and bounties; and ſeveral have been purchaſed of the inventors or improvers for the benefit of the public; and as this repoſitory is continually increaſing either by donations from gentlemen, or in conſequence of premiums and bounties, they may in time form a collection equally uſeful and extenſive.

The ſecond branch propoſed to be encouraged by this Society is,

MANUFACTURES.

SEVERAL valuable Manufactures have been improved and ſome actually eſtabliſhed through the patronage of this Society. In the year 1755, premiums were offered for making buff leather for the uſe

the army, in conſequence of which bullocks hides were dreſſed in oil, and were found to be as good as the hides of buffaloes imported from abroad: lord Romney introduced the uſe of this leather among the Kentiſh militia, and it has ſince been approved by ſeveral regiments.

In 1756, the Society offered a premium for making carpets in England in imitation of thoſe made in Turkey and Perſia, which have been brought to very great perfection by Mr. Moore in Chiſwel ſtreet Moorfields, who produced to the Society a carpet in many reſpects equal and in ſome ſuperior to thoſe imported from Perſia and Turkey.

A manufactory of crucibles made of Engliſh materials, has been eſtabliſhed by Mr. Leiberick in Weſtminſter, in conſequence of a premium publiſhed by the Society for that purpoſe.

Marbled paper which has hitherto been imported from Holland, chiefly for the uſe of bookſellers and ſtationers, has been brought to ſuch perfection this preſent year,

year, as in every reſpect to equal the Dutch, and the firſt premium offered for this article has been claimed by and granted to the Manufacturer who reſides at Exeter.

Paper for rolling preſs printing has likewiſe been conſiderably improved by means of the encouragement given by this Society, the French excel in this article, and their impreſſions from copper plates are more perfect than ours, but we have lately manufactured a quantity of this paper nearly equal in quality to the French.

Quilting in the loom in imitation of Marſeilles or India quilting, has been eſtabliſhed in this country and brought to great perfection, under the patronage of the Society, and the premium has been claimed and adjudged.

The making of flowers of point lace, after the manner of Bruſſels lace, having been encouraged, great improvements have been made therein, and the premiums have been claimed and granted.

Pri-

Premiums have been publiſhed for making chip hats which have thereby been conſiderably improved, and the premiums have been granted accordingly.

Alſo great encouragement has been given to the Manufacturers of druggets, ſpecimens of which were produced ſo excellent in their kind, that the premium is diſcontinued.

Theſe are the principal Manufactures that have flouriſhed under the ſanction of the Society, and have rendered this part of their plan of equal utility with the encouragement of Arts.

The encouraging of improvements in Arts and Manufactures, has ſo direct a tendency to the ſupport of Commerce, that little remains to be ſaid on this head, which completes the plan of our laudable Society, however, ſeveral articles in

COM-

COMMERCE.

HAVE been greatly improved by means of their premiums, eſpecially in our colonies.

The planting of white mulberry trees; whoſe leaves are the proper food for ſilk worms, has been promoted by premiums, and great quantities of Cocoons, *being little balls or bags on which the incloſed ſilk worms have ſpun the ſilk*, have been produced to the Society's correſpondents in the colonies who have paid the premiums that have been claimed for this article.

The importation of raw ſilk from the colonies has likewiſe been promoted by premiums which are ſtill continued.

A premium is alſo offered for producing wines in our American colonies, and ſome ſamples have been ſent over of both red and white, which were greatly approved of in the Society, but as the time for granting this premium does not expire till 1765, we may

may expect further improvements, and that ſuch wines will be produced as ſhall deſerve the reward of one hundred pounds.

The cultivation of hemp, of the olive and cinnamon trees, of aloes, ſafflower, &c, in the colonies, is encouraged by ſuitable premiums, and various other articles to be imported from thence; amongſt which the importation of pearl-aſh has been effected this preſent year, though not in ſuch large quantities as to merit the premium, but the proprietor has been honored with the Society's gold medal, in conſideration of what he has already done towards promoting their intentions with reſpect to this commodity.

And ſo large a field is opened in the colonies, for carrying on the laudable deſigns of this Society, that it is impoſſible to ſet bounds to the advantages that may one day ariſe, from affording this encouragement to our fellow ſubjects in America, eſpecially if it be conſidered that our poſſeſſions in north

America

America are ſo extenſive that they include almoſt all the different climates of the world, and there is the greateſt reaſon to imagine that moſt of the ſpice trees, plants and other valuable articles which at preſent are peculiar to the eaſt, may be cultivated in the weſt.

Having now given an account of the principal public advantages ariſing from the premiums and bounties granted by the Society for the encouragement of ARTS, MANUFACTURES and COMMERCE,

I have only to add, that this reſpectable body at preſent conſiſts of between two and three thouſand members, and that their proceedings are carried on with the utmoſt candor, propriety and decorum by means of a well digeſted ſet of rules and orders, which are printed for the uſe of the Members, the ſubſtance of which, I ſhall endeavour to comprize in as few words as poſſible.

THE OFFICERS of this Society are, the preſident, the vice-preſidents, of whom

there are ten, the Secretary, aſſiſtant ſecretary, regiſter and collector, theſe are choſen annually by ballot. The election of a new member is likewiſe by ballot, he may be propoſed by a member, at any meeting of the Society, and be balloted for at the next meeting, when if two thirds of the members then preſent ballot in his favour, he is deemed a perpetual member on payment of twenty guineas, or a ſubſcribing member on payment of any ſum not leſs than two guineas, ſo long as ſuch payment is annually continued.

Their meetings are held in their great room oppoſite Beaufort buildings in the Strand, and they meet every Wedneſday at ſix in the evening preciſely, from the ſecond Wedneſday in November to the laſt Wedneſday in May, and in the intermediate time on the firſt and third Wedneſday in every month, theſe are called ordinary meetings, beſides which, there are eight general meetings every year; and ſome occaſional extraordinary meetings.

When

When the Society is ſitting, the preſident or preſiding member conducts the buſineſs of the evening agreeable to the book of rules and orders which lies on the table before him: the buſineſs begins with reading the minutes of the preceeding meeting, which being once read, are on a ſecond reading to be diſcuſſed if neceſſary, article by article, before any other ſubject is conſidered, all the minutes which are not objected to on the ſecond reading ſtand confirmed: after this the reports from committees are read, and agreed to or diſapproved; unleſs a motion is made and ſeconded to poſtpone the reports, in order, to introduce any new propoſition, which cannot be received after ten o'clock, if ſuch motion ſo ſeconded is carried by a majority of hands held up in ſupport of it, then the new propoſition is immediately conſidered, being firſt delivered at the chair in writing, and in this, and all other caſes, the greateſt freedom of debate is allowed, and carried on with the utmoſt decency and candor,

every member being patiently and attentively heard without interruption, unleſs he departs from any order of the Society, or ſpeaks more than once, to the ſame queſtion, which is not permitted, unleſs a gentleman has been miſunderſtood, and deſires to explain himſelf: when any member ſpeaks, he ſtands up and addreſſes himſelf to the gentleman in the chair and the reſt remain ſilent, no limitation of time is preſcribed to the ſpeaker, but few exceed ten minutes, except on very extraordinary occaſions, and moſt gentlemen for the ſatisfaction of ſo large an auditory, ſpeak as audibly as poſſible.

There are nine ſtanding committees and two chairmen to each committee, beſides which there are occaſional committees for miſcellaneous ſubjects: to theſe committees are referred, the ſeveral ſubjects properly falling under their conſideration, as letters, to the committee of correſpondence, Polite Arts, to the committee of Polite Arts, &c. and every member

ber is of every committee, though particular gentlemen are nominated to each committee.

Theſe are the principal regulations that have not been already noticed in the courſe of this narrative, which I cannot more aptly conclude than with a ſincere and fervent prayer "that this moſt free and independ-" ant Society, inſtituted FOR THE PUBLIC " GOOD, may long continue to do honor " to its patrons, and that its preſent moſt " excellent plan with all poſſible improve-" ments may be handed down to poſterity, " and by them be ſacredly revered, and " firmly upheld with the reſt of thoſe " ineſtimable privileges, which have ren-" dered us ſuperior to all the nations of the " earth."

FINIS.